

M'LARNIN IS VICTOR OVER ROSS IN BOWL

**Regains World's Welterweight
Title by Winning Decision
in 15-Round Bout.**

REFEREE'S VOTE DECIDES

**Donovan Gives the Fight to
Coast Boxer After Split
Verdict of Judges.**

By JAMES P. DAWSON.

The world's welterweight championship last night returned to Jimmy McLarnin, the fighting little Irishman who has never failed to come back.

In as glorious a battle as he ever waged the warrior from the Coast fought his way to a decision over Barney Ross, Chicago's double champion, before 25,000 fight fans in the Madison Square Garden Bowl, Long Island City, and regained the title he lost to Ross last May 28 in the same ring.

On the vote of Referee Arthur Donovan, who based his ballot on boxing and fighting ability combined, McLarnin gained the honors in this battle which bristled with fighting fury and boxing brilliance.

The two judges, Tommy Shortell and Charles Lynch, disagreed when the final bell clanged fins to a head-to-head skirmish, in which Ross, fighting furiously, was hammering with both hands a McLarnin who was blind in one eye.

Lynch Votes for Ross.

Lynch voted for Ross, calling eight rounds for the lad who was the ring's first to hold both the world's lightweight and welterweight titles at the same time. Six he gave to McLarnin and one he called even.

Shortell voted six rounds for McLarnin, five for Ross and four even. The voting slip of Referee Donovan gave McLarnin ten rounds and Ross five.

Through his superb boxing on the attack and the defense as well, McLarnin carried off the honors and kept clean a record which is a ring legend—he has never failed to conquer a fighter who beat him.

This record goes back to his days as a bantamweight. It encompasses such redoubtable fighters as Bud Taylor, the Terre Haute terror; Ray Miller, the Chicagoan; Sammy Mandell, ex-lightweight champion, and last, but by no means least, the marvelous old war horse of the ring who has since retired, Billy Petrolle. Now they can add Barney Ross to the list, without the stigma of disgrace.

More, this battle held true to ring tradition in other respects. The hoodoo that has followed the world's welterweight title since the reign of Pete Latzo dogged the footsteps of Ross as did the jinx of the bowl ring. Every welterweight championship fight since Latzo's days saw the champion losing his crown in its first defense, and there have been eleven of them, including last night's.

Jinx of the Bowl Holds.

No champion who has entered the bowl ring has departed with his championship prestige intact. And this goes down the line through Max Schmeling, Jack Sharkey, Primo Carnera, McLarnin and Ross. It is strange, but it is true.

Donovan leaned to the superb boxing of McLarnin in arriving at his award. He said as much in explanation of his decision when the excitement over the result had died in the vast recesses of the bowl.

"McLarnin won on his boxing," said Donovan. "He outboxed Ross at almost every turn. At least that is the way I looked at it. Ross fought only in flurries, and you can't win fights fighting only in spasms."

The battle, waged in the interests of charity, attracted a gate estimated at \$115,000. The turnout of 25,000 was remarkable in view of the disappointments experienced in staging the contest. Four times rain forced its postponement and over eleven days this delay spread, affecting interest, gate receipts, and, no doubt, the fighters.

Last night the weather was forbidding. Dark clouds hung ominously in a starless sky following a morning of torrential rain and mist-like drizzle.



Eager to See Struggle.

But the fans wanted to see this struggle as they wanted to do a bit for charity. The consequence was a gate that is expected to provide a rich harvest for The New York American's Christmas and Relief Fund and a battle that thrilled with its suspense, its exciting moments and its exhibition of a boxing skill that was thought to be a lost art.

Not all who witnessed the skirmish agreed with the award. Some there were who jeered and booed openly, but these derisive cries were drowned in a salvo of cheers for a conquering hero who toppled a foe the bettors held the favorite at odds of 2 to 1.

This disagreement extended to the ringside section holding the critics. Many saw the battle differently. Many disagreed with the decision, though they resented it not too strongly. It was a close battle. The score sheets of the three bout officials reflect that.

Keenly waged and bitterly fought at a pace that was steady and at times electrifying, the contest progressed from its opening gong to its final bell with cheers for first one and then the other battler. And at the finish the acclaim for McLarnin overcame the cries of the dissenters.

Gives McLarnin Nine Rounds.

The writer was in complete accord with the verdict. He gave McLarnin nine rounds and Ross six, recognizing the superior combination of fighting and boxing that characterized McLarnin's work in the earlier rounds, and his cool, calculating boxing in the closing sessions.

McLarnin took the first, third, fourth, sixth, seventh, eighth, tenth, thirteenth and fourteenth rounds. Ross fought steadily only in the six rounds he won. In these he fought desperately to fulfill that promise of his most enthusiastic admirers—a knockout triumph. But his spo-

radic boxing was a detracting influence and he suffered accordingly.

The Chicagoan won the second, fifth, ninth, eleventh, twelfth and fifteenth.

In one of the rounds credited to Ross, McLarnin actually had the better of the fighting. This was the fifth, in which McLarnin was penalized for striking foul unintentionally with a long left aimed at the body. McLarnin saw the illegal direction of the blow in time to still its power, but not soon enough entirely to recall its momentum. It landed and one of McLarnin's best rounds was charged against him as a consequence.

McLarnin proved the contention that his long lay-off cost him heavily in his first meeting with Ross. Contrasting with the floundering, slippery-footed, erratic punching fighter of last May 28, last night there was in the ring a cool, deliberate marksman, whose timing was accurate, judgment sharp, boxing skillful, and whose punching power on what few occasions he exhibited it was awe-inspiring.

More, however, for the manner in which he scored his victory than for the victory itself did McLarnin deserve unstinted praise. A head-on collision in the very first round grew a slight lump over McLarnin's left eye, almost above the nose. A blow opened a cut over the left eye in the eighth round.

Eyes Completely Closed.

Ross's rat-a-tat-tat of lefts and rights gradually increased the swelling until the forehead was abnormal and, in the twelfth round, McLarnin's left eye was completely closed. He fought on, nevertheless, to win the thirteenth and fourteenth rounds on boxing skill alone, an almost unbelievable feat under the optical handicap. And his iron courage and heart carried him through a punching gale in the last round to the final bell, when he turned the familiar hand-spring, an acrobatic reflection of conserved McLarnin strength which preceded the raising aloft of his hand as champion again.

Ross was not unmarked as he left the ring. His two eyes were cut and bleeding, his mouth was bruised and his left side was red and raw about the ribs, grim testimony of the punching power that McLarnin boasts.

Ross's start was slow, and that cost him heavily. On the other

hand, McLarnin profited by a snappy early start. He speared the Chicagoan with a left jab that was swift, sharp and snappy, and with powerful left hooks to the face counted often. Near the end of the first round McLarnin staggered his foe with a left hook to the jaw followed by a right that carried equal power and brought joy to the McLarnin adherents in the throng and dismay to Ross's followers.

Ross Returns to Fray.

Ross, nothing daunted, bounded back at his foe and was fighting furiously at the end of the round, although he missed repeatedly.

The second saw Ross fighting furiously after overcoming an early bombardment of left hooks which McLarnin unleashed. Countering this fire, Ross sprang at his foe and drove both hands to the head tirelessly in punches which were more bewildering because of their speed than they were effective with power.

McLarnin used a short chopping right smartly in the third and fourth rounds, in combination with a ceaseless fire of straight lefts and left hooks, which had Ross fighting in desperate flurries, unsuccessfully seeking to counteract or discourage this onslaught. Through the fifth it was the same, but the one foul punch he struck during the bout cost McLarnin the round.

In the sixth, seventh and eighth rounds McLarnin's boxing was superb and at times he stung Ross with right crosses to the jaw. The blows, however, never threatened a knockdown, nor did any punches of the fight.

Earns Cheers of Crowd.

Ross seemed to take a grip on himself and fought furiously and steadily in the ninth, driving McLarnin before him with a two-fisted fire of rights and lefts to the head, face and jaw which brought the cheers of the crowd to the defender's ears and consternation in the McLarnin camp.

In the tenth McLarnin began to be handicapped by his swelling left eye, but he continued to spear his foe with accurate left jabs and left hooks and made Ross miss awkwardly.

Ross fought furiously to win the eleventh, hammering McLarnin steadily in a blazing fire of lefts and rights. And the same was

true of the twelfth, when McLarnin's injured eye closed completely.

Through the thirteenth and fourteenth, however, McLarnin was the master boxer, with just enough of fighting fury at times to forestall an attempted recovery by Ross.

But in the fifteenth nothing McLarnin had to offer could offset the desperate, furious fighting of Ross, who threw every ounce of his remaining strength into a closing bid for victory.

McLarnin weighed 146½ pounds and Ross 140½ pounds.

Davey Day, Chicago lightweight, stopped Frankie Cinque of Washington Heights in one minute four seconds of the fourth round of their scheduled six-round semi-final. Referee Danny Ridge halted the contest when Cinque was backed against the ropes, being hammered steadily by his foe. Day weighed 135 pounds and Cinque 138.

The night opened with a four-round contest in which Al Zappala, Lawrence (Mass.) light-heavyweight, won the decision from Frank Lo Bianco of Brooklyn. Zappala weighed 168½ and Lo Bianco 171.

Al Cassimini, Corona (L. I.) welterweight, fought his way to the decision over Mickey Paul of Brooklyn in a six-round bout. Cassimini weighed 137½ and Paul 140½.

Eddie Flynn of New Orleans, member of the United States Olympic team in 1932, knocked out Danny Levine of the East Side in the fourth round of a scheduled six-round bout. Flynn scaled 151½ and Levine 147½.

Kid Frattini, Italian welterweight, pounded out a victory over Tommy Romano, Albany, in a hard-fought six-round bout. Frattini scaled 149 and Romano 146½.

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